

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of reference fails to disclose or suggest a surgical instrument comprising: a tubular member having a distal end and a proximal end, for forming an axis; a partition member disposed in the tubular member in a direction along the axis of the tubular member, for partitioning the inside of the tubular member; a first shaft disposed in a first channel formed by the partition member such that the first shaft can move in both forward and backward directions; a second shaft disposed in a second channel formed by the partition member such that the second shaft can move in both forward and backward directions; an end effector including a pair of jaws; a base member connected to the second shaft, for supporting the end effector; a supporting pin for pivotably supporting the base member to mount the end effector on the distal end of the tubular member; a first connection member connected to the jaws, the first connection member being movable in both forward and backward directions in the base member to open and close the jaws; a first operation control portion connected to the first shaft, for manipulating the end effector via the first shaft; and a second operation control portion connected with a proximal end of the second shaft, the second operation control portion moving the second shaft in both forward and backward directions to control the angle of the joint; and especially a second connection member for connecting the first connection member with the first shaft, the second connection member being movable through a joint formed by the supporting pin, and including a first insertion hole for receiving a first connection pin for connection with the first connection member and a second insertion hole for

Art Unit: 3773

receiving a second connection pin for connection with the first shaft; and the second connection member being, movable between a location at which the supporting pin and the first insertion hole are coincident with each other and a location at which the supporting pin and the second insertion hole are coincident with each other.

Claims 1, 2-10 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vy Q. Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-4692. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

Art Unit: 3773

more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vy Q. Bui/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773